# Juliet Character Analysis

Juliet is the female love interest of Romeo, and one of the most important characters in the play. Juliet goes through significant changes throughout the play. She develops from a young girl who has no interest in love, to a more mature woman who would give up his entire family for Romeo’s love. At Act 1, near the beginning, Juliet has little interest in love and marriage, “ I’ll look to like, if looking liking move. But no more deep will I endart mine eye than your consent gives strength to make it fly” (1.3.103-105). This quote means that Juliet will try to like Paris, and she won’t love him anymore than her parents want her too. What she actually means is that she doesn’t show any interest in Paris, and if her parents require it, she will only show the bare minimum requirement of love. It is apparent she shows in interest in love and marriage, as she doesn’t seem to like the most handsome man in town. However this all changes as he meets Romeo, “If he be married, my grave is like to be my wedding bed” (1.5.148-149). As soon as she meets Romeo, she already begins to show interest in love and marriage, in which presumably before the start of the play, she did not. She says she would rather die than marry someone else, and it seems that she is already talking about marriage just after talking to Romeo.

Juliet also matures and begins to develop independence throughout the course of the play. At first, she is relatively dependent towards the nurse and people that care for her. She would obey and want them by her side, however she would rather give them up if they dared to go against Romeo:

Well, thou hast comforted me marvelous much.

Go in and tell my lady I am gone,

Having displeased my father, to Lawrence’ cell

To make confession and to be absolved. (3.5.243-246)

After the Nurse tells her to marry Paris and forget about Romeo, Juliet begins to notice that if she wants help, she must help herself and not rely on anyone else. This is the beginning of her maturity and independence. She would rather lie and develop her own solution, then listen to the people she has trusted and relied on for her entire life. This shows a great deal of independence, and it has all developed since she met Romeo. This independence and some courage is also shown when she takes the potion, “ Nurse! – What should she do here? My dismal scene I needs must act alone” (4.3.19-20). Juliet starts to call back the nurse to help here, but realizes she must do it herself without any help. She must be brave, mature, and independent enough to do it herself, and put herself in great risk just for the love of Romeo.

Juliet also used to be rational, she was the voice of reason between her and Romeo, but turned to the most desperate solutions and listened to irrationality soon after she lost Romeo.

We can see how her love for Romeo has matured and developed Juliet so much over the course of a short 4 days. She used to be a dependent naïve young girl who showed no interest in love, to an independent girl who would give up her life just for love, a change that would regularly maybe happen over four years, has happened over four days.